

RDN Continues Stewardship Seed Funding Program for Watershed Projects

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is accepting applications for community-level projects that monitor, restore or enhance regional watercourses. The Drinking Water & Watershed Protection's (DWWP) Stewardship Seed Funding grants range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per project and multi-year projects can apply annually for up to three consecutive years. The total funding available for this program is \$45,000 for 2024, up from \$28,875 in 2023. Grants will still top out at \$5,000 per project per year, ensuring the program can support more projects eligible for funding. There is no deadline to apply as funding is first come, first served based on project merit until the year's end or available funding is exhausted.

To be eligible for Stewardship Seed Funding, projects must:

- be led by a non-profit organization and involve community volunteers,
- be jointly funded by other partners, donors or with in-kind contributions,
- acquire all the necessary permissions and permits for work to be carried out,
- and actively enhance or monitor stream, river, lake, estuary or wetland health, hydrology or function.

Projects that pursue recommendations from RDN-supported stream assessments or water quality monitoring, such as the Community Watershed Monitoring Network (rdn.bc.ca/community-watershed-monitoring), will be prioritized.

"The commitment shown by community groups in undertaking these wide-ranging and important projects is greatly appreciated and vital for the health of our environment," said Vanessa Craig, RDN Chair. "With every project they are helping to protect, maintain, and restore our region's watercourses and waterbodies."

Since 2016, the RDN's DWWP program has supported 31 watershed enhancement projects throughout the region, with projects ranging from stream habitat assessments and monitoring efforts to wetland restoration and bank stabilization projects. Through the Stewardship Seed Funding program, over \$81,000 has been granted to support watershed restoration projects in the RDN.


For program details, including information on how to apply for funding and application forms, visit rdn.bc.ca/stewardship-seed-funding. For application questions or to connect with stewardship organizations in your area, email waterstewardship@rdn.bc.ca. For more information about the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection program, visit rdn.bc.ca/drinking-water-and-watershed-protection.

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